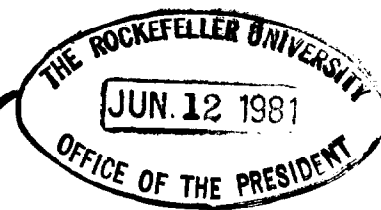


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HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL ATTN H AMOS
DEPT OF MICROBIOLOGY 25 SHATTUCK
BOSTON MA 02115

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THIS MAILGRAM IS A CONFIRMATION COPY OF THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE:

6177321947 MGM TDMT BOSTON MA 244 06-05 0601P EST

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PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON DC 20500

THE UNDERSIGNED, MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDENT'S CANCER PANEL, URGENTLY REQUEST THAT PENDING REAPPOINTMENT OF DR VINCENT DE VITA AS DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE NOT BE UNDERMINED BY THE RECENT HEARINGS BEFORE THE SENATE LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE.

THE ALLEGATIONS THAT WERE GIVEN EXTENSIVE ATTENTION AT THE HEARINGS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF DR DE VITA'S EXTRAORDINARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

HIS COMMITMENT TO THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY ARE ABOVE REPROACH. WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT IS POSSIBLE TO FIND AN INDIVIDUAL MORE CAPABLE OF DIRECTING THE AFFAIRS OF THE CANCER INSTITUTE IN THESE TIMES OF GREAT STRINGENCY.

AS MEMBERS OF VARIOUS ADVISORY BOARDS AND WORKING COMMITTEES OF THE NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, WE HAVE HAD EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO ASSESS AT FIRST HAND DR DE VITA'S ADMINISTRATIVE AND SCIENTIFIC CAPABILITIES. WE ARE CONVINCED THAT HE IS A DIRECTOR OF EXTRAORDINARY STRENGTH AND EFFECTIVENESS.

IN HIS SHORT TENURE HE HAS MOVED SWIFTLY, INSTITUTING SWEEPING ORGANIZATIONAL AND PROCEDURAL CHANGES AIMED AT CORRECTING THE DEFICIENCIES HE INHERITED.

IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE THRUST OF THE CANCER PROGRAM, WHICH IMPINGES UPON THE LIVES OF SO MANY AMERICANS WE URGE THAT THE REAPPOINTMENT OF DR DE VITA PROCEED WITH YOUR APPROVAL.

THE PANEL, OF COURSE, STANDS READY TO GIVE EVERY POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE TO YOU AND TO THE DIRECTOR.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

JOSHUA LEDERBERG PHD CHAIRMAN